

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT**

Please substitute the following paragraph(s) for the abstract now appearing in the currently filed specification:

The invention matches a countenance of a user during authentication to a countenance of the user's head shot held in advance. An authentication apparatus for certifying the user using a picture registered in a memory, ~~comprises~~ includes an image pickup unit ~~for~~ taking the picture of the user, and an authentication unit ~~for~~ certifying the user by letting the user ~~to~~ bring into a predetermined action and comparing the user's picture taken by the image pickup unit when the user brings into the predetermined action and the picture registered in ~~the~~ memory. In addition, the image pickup unit takes an animated image of the user, ~~the~~ memory supplies an animated image of the user who brings into the predetermined action to the authentication unit, and the authentication unit certifies the user by comparing the user's movement in the animated image taken by the image pickup unit and the user's movement in the animated image acquired from ~~the~~ memory.